

The current healthcare system in this country fails to provide healthcare to all people as a basic human right. In 1948 the U.N. General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It states that “all humans have basic rights as well as the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”. Article 25 of this document states, “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services.

Nearly 30 million Americans are uninsured, and at least 40 million more cannot afford to use their insurance due to deductibles and co-pays. They continue paying out of each paycheck for insurance that they do not use. Compared with other developed and developing nations the U.S. ranks at or near the bottom for life expectancy (26 of 35) and for infant mortality (29 of 35). Yet the U.S. spends more money per capita on healthcare than any other industrialized nation. It is time to remove the profit motive in healthcare, resolve the inefficiencies and guarantee quality healthcare to every person in the U.S. The Medicare For All Act of 2019 has a guarantee of healthcare with comprehensive benefits for every person living in the U.S. These benefits include all primary care, hospital and out patient services, prescription drugs, dental, vision, audiology, women’s reproductive health services, maternity and newborn care, long-term services and supports, mental health and substance abuse treatment, laboratory and diagnostic services, ambulatory services and more.

Many people say this cannot be done. How will we be able to fund it? Well we are paying for it now, just not receiving it. Approximately two thirds of all U.S. healthcare expenditures already come from taxpayers, from federal, state and local government spending. With a single payer Medicare for All Medicare would be able to negotiate all drug prices. In reducing the commercial insurance administration costs, provider administration costs and the monopoly price of drugs, hospital and medical devices it has been calculated that we would be saving 5.5 to 12.5 trillion dollars over a 10-year period. Estimates for all payroll deductions are as low as 8.4% of payroll rates which is lower than we currently pay. This would mean that our pay would increase and we would have no out of pocket expenses.

Now is the time to do your research and realize that our country needs and deserves a comprehensive single payer Medicare For All. Improving our current Medicare system and expanding it to cover everyone is the best solution.

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